

JUN 6 2002

UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND  
DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231  
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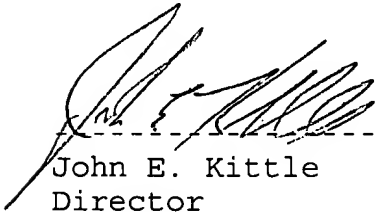
In re Application of :  
John M. Barker :  
Serial No.: 09/837,539 : DECISION ON PETITION  
Filed: April 18, 2001 :  
For: Medical Device with Shield :  
Having A Retractable Needle :

This is in response to applicants' petition filed April 22, 2002, to make the above-identified application special under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.102(c), based on the merits as it relates HIV/AIDS.

Applicant has satisfied the provisions set forth in M.P.E.P. 708.02, X. Therefore the petition is GRANTED.

**The application will be forwarded to the examiner for action on the merits commensurate with this decision.**

Should there be any questions with regard to this letter please contact John E. Kittle by letter addressed to the Director, Technology Center 3700/2900, Washington, DC 20231, or by telephone at (703) 308-0873 or by facsimile transmission at (703) 308-3139.

  
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John E. Kittle  
Director  
Technology Center 3700/2900